Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-06 IGA-01 /048 W

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R 161706Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO AMEMBASSY BONN INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4396

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DEPT. PASS TREASURY FOR SYVRUD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, EAID, PO SUBJECT: AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: (A) BONN 564 (B) LISBON 293

- 1. GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT FRG 1978 BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTAINS AUTHORIZATION OF SOME \$250 MILLION FOR ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND GREECE. THIS APPROPRIATION IS TO BE ADDITIONAL TO NORMAL BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. GERMAN OFFICER STATED THAT FRG HAD PREVIOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREEMENT ON A MINI "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR THESE COUNTRIES. WHEN THAT EFFORT FAILED, FRG DECIDED TO PROCEED ON ITS OWN WITH THE \$250 MILLION APPROPRIATION. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, CONDITION FOR DRAWDOWN, PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS ELEIGIBLE FOR FINANCING, CONDITIONS FOR REPAYMENT, ETC.
- 2. GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICER CONFIRMED REF A REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL.

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PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) LEADERS TELLING FRG THAT USG IS DISPOSED TO EASE ITS CONDITIONS FOR \$300 MILLION LOAN, INCLUDING AUTHORIZATION OF AN EARLY DRAWDOWN. HE SPECFICALLY MENTIONED PS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADER SALGADO ZENHA AS SOURCE OF THESE STATEMENTS. HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD, BASED ON HIS EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH ECON COUNSELOR, INFORMED HIS GOVERNMENT THAT PS STATEMENTS

WERE CONTRARY TO HIS UNDERSTANDING OF USG POLICIES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY BONN CAN PROVIDE ON PROPOSED \$250 MILLION APPROPRIATION.

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